THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen media report in this regard. However, there is no authentic evidence of the existence of mortal remains of Prithviraj Chauhan.

(b) Does not arise.

WRTITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Funds for upgradation of Amritsar Airport

1596. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that funds amounting to Rs. 75 cores were earmarked by the Planning Commission and allotted by his Ministry for development/ upgradation of Amritsar Airport to international standards;

(b) if so, the amount of expenditure incurred so far, out of the above funds together with the details of work carried out; and

(c) whether any funds have been contributed by the Airports Authority of India and the State Government of Punjab for the development of the said Airport; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) A proposal for upgradation of Amritsar airport to international standards at the approximate cost of Rs. 79.27 crores has been approved recently. The State Government has acquired 138 acres of land at their cost and handed over the same to the airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has taken up the work of construction of boundary wall and perimeter security road and an amount of Rs. 2.58 crores has been spent by AAI.

Expansion of AI's Service*

†1597. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of countries in which 'Air India' is providing services to the passengers and the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are going to expand the services of Air India; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Air India, at present, is operating to 26 countries both physically and/or through code shares/joint ventures. The countries are USA, UK, France, Thailand, Japan, Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Switzerland, Russia, Korea, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Neitherlands, Mauritius and Nigeria.

(b) and (c) At present, Air India has no plans to expand its services to any new destination.

Review of ongoing Civil Aviation Projects

1598. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviwed the performance of projects approved, launched and under progress for expansion and strengthening infrastructure Network of civil aviation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, projectwise; and

(c) the details of plan allocation made for various projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The details of major projects under execution are—

Extension/strengthening of runway and alied works, etc. at Calicut, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Lilabari, Bhubaneshwar, IGI Airports;

Construction, extenstion or modification of terminal building with all modern amenities at various airports located at Kargil, Bangalore, Guwahati, Agartala, Port Blair, Bhuj, Tezpur, Imphal, Lilabari, Bagdogra, Patna, Chennai, Calcutta;

Construction of Integrated Cargo Terminal Complex at Chennai, Delhi IGI Airports; and Provision of aerobridges at Mumbai, and Bangalore airports.

Apart from the above projects, associated works such as construction, extension modification of link taxi track, pron, isolation bay, pavement works etc. have also been taken up along with the above projects. Action is at hand to provide Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars, Distace Measuring Equipment, Instrument Landing System Doppler Very High Frequency Omni range, at various airports.